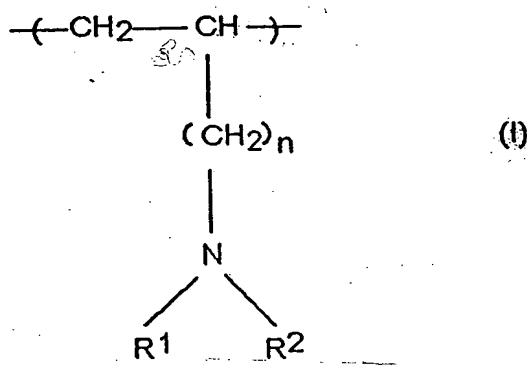


Claim 23. (amended) An ink composition consisting essentially of an alkali-soluble colorant, a water-soluble organic solvent, water, a cationic, water-soluble resin, a base and, optionally, one or more of a nonionic water-soluble resin and an assistant selected from the group consisting of a penetration accelerator, a viscosity modifier, a surface tension modifier, a hydrotropy agent, a humectant, a pH adjustor, an antimold, a chelating agent, a preservative and a rust preventive; the base being selected from the group consisting of a hydroxide of an alkali metal, a hydroxide of an alkaline earth metal, ammonia, mono-, di-, and tri-lower alkylamines, iminobispropylamine, 3-diethylaminopropylamine, dibutylaminopropylamine, methylaminopropylamine, dimethylaminopropanediamine, and methyliminobispropylamine, the cationic, water-soluble resin comprising a repeating unit represented by the following formula (I):



wherein R¹ and R² which may be the same or different represent a hydrogen atom or a C₁₋₅ alkyl group, provided that R¹ and R² do not simultaneously represent a hydrogen atom; and

n is 0, 1, or 2.

Please add the following new claims.

Claim 71. (New) The ink composition according to claim 23, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin consists essentially of the repeating unit represented by formula (I).

Claim 72. (New) The ink composition according to claim 23, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin consists essentially of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) or of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) together with a repeating unit selected from the group consisting ethylene, propylene, isobutylene, styrene, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, vinyl alcohol, vinyl acetate, acrylic acid, acrylic esters, acrylonitrile, methyl vinyl ether, vinylpyrrolidone, and sulfur dioxide.

Claim 73. (New) The ink composition according to claim 50, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin consists essentially of the repeating unit represented by formula (I).

Claim 74. (New) The ink composition according to claim 50, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin consists essentially of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) or of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) together with a repeating unit selected from the group consisting ethylene, propylene, isobutylene, styrene, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, vinyl alcohol, vinyl acetate, acrylic acid, acrylic esters, acrylonitrile, methyl vinyl ether, vinylpyrrolidone, and sulfur dioxide.

Claim 75. (New) The ink composition according to claim 52, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin consists essentially of the repeating unit represented by formula (I).

Claim 76. (New) The ink composition according to claim 52, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin consists essentially of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) or of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) together with a repeating unit selected from the group consisting ethylene, propylene, isobutylene, styrene, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, vinyl alcohol, vinyl acetate, acrylic acid, acrylic esters, acrylonitrile, methyl vinyl ether, vinylpyrrolidone, and sulfur dioxide.

Claim 77. (New) The ink composition according to claim 69, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin consists essentially of the repeating unit represented by formula (I).

Claim 78. (New) The ink composition according to claim 69, wherein the cationic, water-soluble resin consists essentially of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) or of the repeating unit represented by formula (I) together with a repeating unit selected from the group consisting ethylene, propylene, isobutylene, styrene, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, vinyl alcohol, vinyl acetate, acrylic acid, acrylic esters, acrylonitrile, methyl vinyl ether, vinylpyrrolidone, and sulfur dioxide.

Claim 79. The ink composition according to claim 52, wherein the repeating unit of formula (I) is present in the cationic, water-soluble resin in an amount of not more than 70%.

REMARKS

The Official Action of August 21, 2001 has been carefully considered and reconsideration